

Town of Mansfield—4 Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting – May 17, 2011

Present: Nesbitt (Chair), Plante, Ferrigno, Reich, Rawn, Hart, Paulhus, Hultgren (staff), van Zelm (Downtown Partnership), Roberts & Coite (UConn), Lennon (Sustainability Committee), O'Neill, Pazanko, & Keefe (CT Water), Smith, Miczynski, Sebonik, Georgio (guests), Savino (press)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by chair Nesbitt.

The minutes of the April 5, 2011 meeting were approved with Nesbitt abstaining.

John Walsh of Environmental Partners presented the results of his site and environmental screening of 3 potential well sites for the 4 corners water supply (River Park, Eagleville Preserve & Southeast School). He handed out maps and worksheets showing the pros and cons of each site. He said that the Eagleville Preserve site appeared to be the best of the 3. The next step will be to drill small diameter test wells on the selected site, when they are so authorized to proceed. Considerable discussion followed.

Terry O'Neill of the CT Water Company gave an update of CT Water's regional pipeline proposal. He showed a map of the proposed route (through Tolland) and suggested that the capital cost of the project could be spread out over the various end users (including the Town and UConn) for an initial cost of \$14 per gallon per day (example, 100,000 gal/day = initial cost of \$1,400,000). He said that he has presented this proposal to UConn and the Town and other property owners in Northern Mansfield and believes it is the best alternative to supply Northern Mansfield with public water. During the discussion that followed, he said that development along the pipeline could be controlled by Zoning as has happened in Middlebury where a similar pipeline has been built.

Hart reported that the UConn/Town water and wastewater advisory committee had recently been presented with UConn's water supply plan update, and that the plan was under its public review period now and would be submitted to the CT Dept of Health in the next week or so. The plan is available on the UConn Facilities website. Town comments on the plan had been submitted. Coite of UConn confirmed the schedule.

Hart updated committee members on Senator Williams Tech Park proposal noting that it will include funds for infrastructure (roads and water/sewer) that may be able to include the 4 corners area. He said that the Town and the University were working cooperatively to study water sources and that an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) would be necessary due to UConn's involvement (note: with state or federal funding such an EIE would have been required eventually). Hart concluded by saying that the EIE scoping proposal would be before the Town Council at its May 23rd meeting, and he would let committee members know if a special meeting to review the scope of the proposed EIE was needed. The EIE scoping process requires a 30 day comment period, so it will likely not be finalized until the end of June.

Rawn handed out the final draft of the proposed regulation changes for the 4 corners area that had recently been through the public hearing process at the Planning and Zoning Commission. He said that he expected they will be adopted at a June PZC meeting. He noted that most of the suggested elements of the guidelines that were discussed by the 4 corners committee were in the proposed regulations.

Nesbitt read a letter of endorsement he had received from the Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, noting that the two bodies were working in concert.

Hultgren explained that \$350,000 had been included in the recently adopted Town 2011-12 budget for design of the 4 corners water source. A Town meeting or referendum will be required to actually appropriate these funds. He said that the funds already appropriated will fund the exploration and permitting process before these new funds are needed for design.

Reich reported on the recent water forum hosted by the Willimantic River Alliance. She said that the forum was very successful and about 70 people attended with approximately 50 attending that were not affiliated with any of the presenters.

Hart reported that a new round of Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grants was announced by the State with applications due in mid-June. He said that staff would be working up proposals for Council's consideration.

Chair Nesbitt read his letter of resignation to the Mayor/Council noting that he felt the committee had made great progress towards the 4 corners water and sewer projects and thanked everyone for their participation and support. Plante thanked him on behalf of the committee for his service to the Town and committee. The election of a new chairperson will be on the next meeting's agenda.

The next meeting was set for 7 PM, Tuesday June 7th with reports from the pump station design consultant, an update on the meeting with the DEP and DPH, and an update on the Tech Park legislation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM on a motion by Rawn/Plante.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren
Director of Public Works